

justly, though it is odd that the type should have been taken at San Blas, Mexico, "August 9," this being on Aleutian Island and Kamchatkan species. *Phaleris* Temminck, 1820, is restored for the Paroquet Auklet in place of *Cyclorhynchus* Kaup, 1829, although Stejneger (Orn. Expl. in Commander Isls., 1855, p. 38) has pretty clearly shown that *Alca pygmaea* Gm. must be regarded as the type of *Phaleris*. But these are mainly points where differences of opinion are liable to occur—we fear for a long time to come.—J. A. A.

Evans's 'Birds'.<sup>1</sup>—In a well illustrated volume of some 600 pages Mr. Evans has attempted to give "a short description of the majority of the forms in many of the Families, and of the most typical or important of the innumerable species included in the large Passerine Order." This is preceded by an introductory chapter of some 20 pages on the structural peculiarities of birds, their classification, geographical distribution, migration, etc. Mr. Evans follows Dr. Gadow's scheme of classification, "with some slight modifications." He begins with the Archæornithes and ends with the Passere, the final family of the series being the Fringillidæ. The work being intended as a popular treatise on the Class Aves, the more strictly technical phases of the subject have been avoided, as also the discussion of disputed questions. The work is prepared in a conservative spirit, without attempt at fine writing, and without stating as fact the many theories and conjectures that have received almost unqualified endorsement in some of the recent 'popular' books on birds, bird migration, and kindred subjects. A general account is given of each family, with an enumeration of many of its principal forms, and brief reference to their distribution and characteristic traits. The text is fully illustrated with, for the most part, excellent wood cuts. A large part are admirable figures by Mr. G. E. Lodge, prepared especially for the present work, while others are by Smit, or from other sources, and are thus not unfamiliar through previous use in other connections. The volume as a whole is entitled to high commendation, and will prove of great convenience as a general account of the principal forms of bird life, both recent and extinct.—J. A. A.

Von Ihering's *Birds of San Paulo, Brazil*.<sup>2</sup>—This enumeration of the birds of the State of Sao Paulo is based on the collections of the Museu

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<sup>1</sup> Birds | By A. H. Evans, M. A., Clare College, Cambridge | London | Macmillan and Co., Limited | New York: The Macmillan Company | 1899 | All rights reserved | —8vo, pp. xvi + 635, 2 maps, and 144 text figures. = The Cambridge Natural History, Vol. IX. — Price \$3.50.

<sup>2</sup> As Aves do Estado de S. Paulo. Por. H. von Ihering. Revista do Museu Paulista, Anno III, 1899, pp. 113-476.

Paulista, and on the literature of the subject. The nomenclature is essentially that of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds'. The synonymy of the species is given, with a brief mention of their distinctive characteristics and distribution, and the character of their occurrence in Sao Paulo. The number of species recorded as occurring in the State is 590, of which just one half are Passeres. — J. A. A.

**Dearborn's Birds of Belknap and Merrimac Counties, New Hampshire.**<sup>1</sup> — This neatly published list of 175 species is based on the personal experience of the writer during the past ten years, supplemented by other information from reliable observers, duly accredited. Although the list is incomplete, it is evidently trustworthy so far as it goes, and is judiciously annotated. The Loon (*Gavia imber*), Mr. Dearborn states, "has plainly decreased within the last two decades. Twenty years ago they bred every summer at one or more of the ponds which are the headwaters of the Suncook River." They have, however, been so far killed or frightened away by "wanton hunters" that none have nested there of late, though they still breed at Lake Winnepisaukee. The Blue Bird was very scarce in 1895, following their destruction at the south by the severe weather of the previous winter. They were more common in 1896, and in 1897 had nearly reached their normal numbers. "This sudden increase," says Mr. Dearborn, "is rather puzzling, when one considers that ordinarily there is no perceptible increase from year to year." — J. A. A.

**Nash's 'The Birds of Ontario in Relation to Agriculture.'**<sup>2</sup> — The principal groups are briefly reviewed in reference to their influence upon agriculture. The seven pages devoted to the Birds of Prey are based mainly on Dr. Fisher's well known investigations, conducted under the direction of Dr. Merriam for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Crows, Jays and Blackbirds are considered at some length, with a verdict that they have little to recommend them from the economic standpoint, their good deeds being in general quite balanced by their evil ones, while the Blue Jay is rather strongly condemned, mainly on account of its fondness for the eggs and young of birds much more useful than itself. The Cow Bird is regarded as a pest, on account of the "terrible destruction" of the small, insectivorous birds it chooses for its foster parents, each Cow

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<sup>1</sup>A | Preliminary List | of the | Birds | of | Belknap and Merrimack Counties | New Hampshire | with Notes | By | Ned Dearborn. | Presented to the Faculty of the New Hampshire College | of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts as a Thesis | for the Degree of Master of Science, | June, 1898 | — | Durham | New Hampshire College | 1898. — 8vo, pp. 34.

<sup>2</sup>The Birds of Ontario in Relation to Agriculture. By Charles W. Nash. Toronto. 8vo, pp. 32, with 33 half-tone plates, from drawings by the Author. Reprinted from the Report of the Farmers' Institutes of Ontario, 1897-98.